



Prize Port

DOCK HERE FOR ENDLESS EXPERIENCES



Prize Fest 2026

SHREVEPORT | BOSSIER CITY



WELCOME TO PRIZE FEST

This festival is organized with love by Prize Foundation, an organization founded in 2012 to create a home for creative entrepreneurs. We work 365 days a year to make our city a better place for artists and a more fun and prosperous place for everyone. And yes, we do it with one arm around our neighbors and a tequila in the raised hand of the other.

The event you are at now, Prize Fest, is a celebration of the artists and entrepreneurs who have taken a year-long journey with us to grow themselves and hone their craft through our competition events. This festival embodies our collective desires as a community — both the arts community and the broader community of Shreveport and Northwest Louisiana. It is with spirit that we invite you into these events. We ask that you actively partake in this journey by cheering loudly for the work and talent that you are about to see, because while there are grand prize winners, every single one of the competitors deserves our love.

From the bottom of our hearts, we want to thank you all for being a part of the most amazing film, food, music, and comedy festival on the planet — which happens in the heart of our city, Shreveport, Louisiana and with our friends in Bossier City!

Have fun, make some new friends and remember...

YOU ARE THE PRIZE

MAKE THE MOST OF THE FESTIVAL

There are many ways to enjoy the offerings of Prize Fest. In order to get the most out of your time with us, please use the table of contents below to locate the schedule of events, artist biographies, and plan out your Prize Fest experience!

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PRIZE★FEST

IN THE ARTS DISTRICT

FILM VENUES

- A** Robinson Film Center
- B** The Capri Theater
- C** SRAC's Central ARTstation
- D** BPCC Theater
*ACROSS THE RED RIVER

SPACES

- E** Film Prize VIP Lounge
- F** Prize Island & Red Carpet
- G** Ticketing, Voting, Merchandise

FOOD, DRINK, AND SHOPPING

- H** Rhino Coffee
- J** Healing Waters Bath & Body
- K** On Time Fashions Clothier
- L** Niema's
- M** Fusion Bistro
- N** The Missing Link Restaurant
- O** City Convenience Store
- P** Papion's Creole Bistreaux
- Q** Noble Savage Restaurant





PRIZE FEST

ON THE RIVERFRONT

VENUES

- 1 Prize Garage & VIP Lounge
- 2 Remington Suite Hotel & Spa

HOTELS

- 2 Remington Suite Hotel & Spa
- 3 Hilton Downtown Shreveport
- 4 Riverfront Resort Casino Hotels

FOOD, SHOPS & NIGHTLIFE

- 5 Bon Asian Cafe
- 6 Sugar Lou's Cafe (Louisiana Tower)
- 7 Coffee Talk (Serves Starbucks)
- 8 River & Rye Restaurant at Hilton
- 9 Haze on Texas Nightclub
- 10 10/10 Lounge
- 11 The Blind Tiger Restaurant
- 12 Sand Bar
- 13 Next Level 318 Sports Bar & Grill
- 14 Phoenix Nightclub & Gigi's
- 15 The Grove Clothing and Decor

IN MY LOUISIANA,

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IS HISTORIC.



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NEW ORLEANS



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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

Food Prize Come and Get It! Dining Experience

Remington Suite Hotel & Spa, 220 Travis Street (6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.)

Come and Get It! is the premier food event at Prize Fest which features the six finalist local chefs creating one-of-a-kind dishes where you get to judge the winners! All this plus a cocktail competition, desserts, and valet parking. It's a recipe for a night to remember!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

Film Prize University: Film Industry Panels **FREE**

Robinson Film Center, 2nd Floor. 617 Texas Street (11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.)

Mentor Judges from Film Prize will host panel discussions and Q&As discussing the independent film industry, next steps to grow your filmmaking career, and more. This event is free and open to the public.

Comedy Prize Standup Showdown, Early Show

Prize Garage, 211 Market Street (Doors 5:00 p.m., Show 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.)

Eight comedians from across the country make you laugh out loud at Comedy Prize! This event is uncensored and not recommended for younger Prizers. Arrive early to get your drinks and get in line to enter because seating is first-come, first-served!

Film Prize Red Carpet Event **FREE** With Badge

Prize Island, 700 Block of Texas Street (6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.)

Join the filmmakers and the stars of this year's Louisiana Film Prize on the red carpet. This event, open to all, will feature photographers, a filmmaker speed date, big toast with special drinks and more, all in the middle of Texas Street in downtown Shreveport.

Comedy Prize Standup Showdown, Late Show

Prize Garage, 211 Market Street (Doors 7:30 p.m., Show 8:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.)

The event so nice, we had to host it twice! Eight comedians return to the stage for a second show at Comedy Prize! This event is uncensored and not recommended for younger Prizers. Arrive early to get your drinks and get in line to enter because seating is first-come, first-served! Stay until the end to see who wins!

Red Carpet Afterglow Party **FREE** With Badge

Niema's at Robinson Film Center - 617 Texas Street, Second Floor (9:00 p.m. – Until)

The party doesn't stop after the red carpet cameras stop clicking! Join us late into the night with special drinks, mocktails just steps away from the red carpet!



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

Film Prize Screenings Begin

All Film Screening Venues (First screening at 9:00 a.m., last at 8:15 p.m.)

Watch the Top 20 films competing for the up to \$50,000 cash prize! You must watch all twenty films to vote. Full screening schedule on page 38.

Photo Prize Gallery Exhibition: Day 1

Bossier Parish Community College Campus (10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.)

Presented in partnership with BPCC, come view this year's finalist photographs celebrating Caddo and Bossier Parish, and cast your vote for your favorite as the \$500 People's Choice Award winner.

Food Prize: Celebrity Chef BBQ

Prize Island, 700 Block of Texas Street (11:00a.m. - 2:00 p.m.)

Join pitmaster and Top Chef guest judge Lewis "Sweet Lew" Donald for smoky flavors and Southern hospitality at the Prize Fest Celebrity Chef BBQ.

Prize Fest VIP Lounge Opens

Artspace Shreveport, 710 Texas Street (11:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.)

Film Prize VIP Passholders, artists, and judges can enjoy an open bar, exciting chef-curated meals, cushy lounge spaces, special desserts, and more! This is the place to be when you're not in line for movies or at a Prize event!

Music Prize Showdown: Night 1

Prize Garage, 211 Market Street (Doors 6:00 p.m., Show 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.)

The first six finalists for Music Prize 2026 bring down the house for the first night of live music. See at least three bands and you can vote for the Audience Choice winner!

Prize Fest's Friday Night After Party

The Noble Savage, 417 Texas Street (9:00 p.m. – until)

Join all of the Prize Fest competitors, cast, crew, and fellow audience members with a continued celebration of their accomplishments. A live DJ will spin music that will make you move!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

Film Prize Screenings Continue

All Film Screening Venues (First screening at 9:00 a.m., final screening at 8:15 p.m.)

Watch the Top 20 films competing for the up to \$50,000 cash prize! You must watch all twenty films to vote. Full screening schedule on page 38.

Photo Prize Gallery Exhibition: Day 2

Bossier Parish Community College Campus (10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.)

Presented in partnership with BPCC, stop by to see finalist photographs celebrating Caddo and Bossier Parish and don't miss your chance to vote for the \$500 People's Choice Award.

MPCon - A Music Prize Conference

Shreveport Municipal Auditorium, 705 Grand Ave (10:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

National music industry experts and mentors interface with Music Prize finalists and local area musicians during this intimate conference designed to connect musicians with industry heavy hitters who can take their careers to the next level.

Prize Fest VIP Lounge Opens

Artspace Shreveport, 710 Texas Street (11:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.)

Film Prize VIP Passholders, artists, and judges can enjoy an open bar, exciting chef-curated meals, cushy lounge spaces, special desserts, and more! This is the place to be when you're not in line for movies or at a Prize event!



ANCHORED

IN COMMUNITY



For nearly 60 years, **LSU Shreveport** has been **anchored** in Northwest Louisiana, providing **top-notch educational opportunities** while investing in the **stories, traditions and communities** of Northwest Louisiana.

Visit lsus.edu to learn more about our commitment to community!



Food Prize: Battle for the Golden Fork Final Cookoff **FREE**

700 Block of Texas Street (6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.)

Three finalist chefs, selected from Wednesday's Come and Get It event, will face off Chopped-style, live and in-person right in the heart of downtown Shreveport. Free and open to the public, come out and cheer on your favorite chef!

Music Prize Showdown: Night 2

Prize Garage, 211 Market Street (Doors 6:00 p.m., Show 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.)

The remaining five finalists for Music Prize 2026 bring down the house for the last night of live music. See at least three bands and you can vote for the Audience Choice winner!

Prize Fest Rockin' New Year's Eve Closing Party **FREE** **With Badge**

The Capri, 620 Milam Street (9:00 p.m. – Until)

Close out Prize Fest in style with a special closing party event featuring food, drink and special musical guest both non-alcoholic and alcoholic.

Big Exhale Prize Fest Closing Toast

The Capri, 620 Milam Street (11:00 p.m.)

Come celebrate the biggest, baddest barbaric YAWP ever as we bring home the final night of Prize Fest celebration.

VIVA!

VA-BOOM!

CHRISTMAS IN THE SKY

AN EPIC COLLISION OF SUPERHEROES & VILLAINS!

ARE YOU A

HERO

OR

VILLAIN



**FILM PRIZE HEROES
GET EARLY ACCESS TO
"SKY" TICKETS!**





CFNLA Makes Giving to **THE PRIZE** Easy!

Community Foundation of North Louisiana (CFNLA) is a trusted leader in philanthropy, managing over \$243 million in assets. CFNLA invests donations and utilizes the return for grants to local nonprofits while also maintaining a community endowment for future generations.

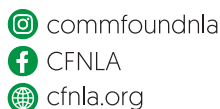
We bring people and resources together to solve complex community problems and improve North Louisiana's quality of life by strengthening our community.

Support **THE PRIZE** by making donations during Give for Good!

- With a **Donor Advised Fund**, you can recommend grants to The Prize during Give for Good or throughout the year at your convenience. (At a minimum donation of \$5,000, DAF fundholders enjoy benefits like zero Give for Good fees!)
- Create a **Designated Fund** to support The Prize in perpetuity.
- Use **Legacy Giving** as part of your estate plan to provide lasting support to The Prize and ensure your philanthropic legacy is achieved.

Contact CFNLA today to get started:

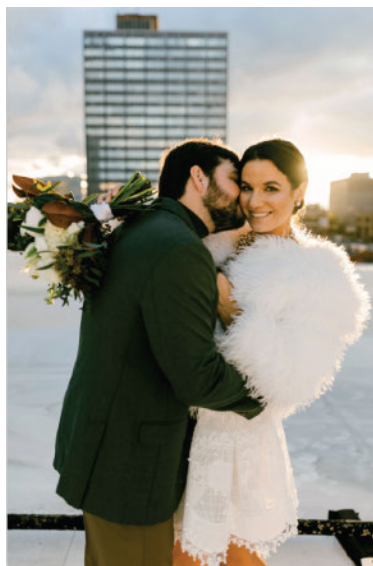
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REMINGTON SUITE HOTEL AND SPA

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BOUTIQUE HOTEL

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Shreveport's Hidden Gem

The Remington Hotel is named after the Western American artist Fredrick Remington. The exposed brick in the Remington Suite Hotel is more than 100 years old. The building was originally the Morris Dickson Pharmacy. Each room is inspired by a well-known artist, including the original work of local artists, including family members. In 2011 Shreveport was named the "Hollywood of the South" while television and film boomed for nearly a decade. The Remington Suite Hotel has been an oasis for many famous stars over the years and now.



Congratulations to Prize Fest 2026

Prize Fest celebrates what Louisiana Innovation exists to support: a culture that builds what's next, and turns our natural instinct to create into value the world recognizes.

Every film, every first, every company made here adds to the momentum happening across Louisiana: innovation at humanity scale.

**LOCAL
FREQUENCY**
**GLOBAL
SIGNAL**



**6 LOCAL CHEFS.
5 COCKTAIL CREATORS.**



**FOOD
PRiZE** TM

COME & GET IT

Wednesday, October 14th, 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

The Remington Suite Hotel & Spa (220 Travis Street)

Come and Get It! is the premier Prize Fest food event that pairs six local chefs from Northwest Louisiana with nationally recognized chefs from around the country. Together they create six unique dishes to compete for your vote! All this plus the Golden Shaker cocktail competition, desserts, and more. It's a recipe for a night to remember!

BATTLE FOR THE GOLDEN FORK

Saturday, October 17th, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

700 Block of Texas Street

Three finalist chefs, selected from Wednesday's Come and Get It event, will face off in a Chopped-style mystery basket cook off, live in downtown Shreveport. Come out and cheer on your favorite chef!

2ND ANNUAL FOOD PRIZE

CELEBRITY CHEF BBQ

**FEATURING PITMASTER
"SWEET LEW" DONALD**

Friday, October 16th, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Prize Island (700 Block of Texas Street)

Nationally recognized Pitmaster Lewis "Sweet Lew" Donald takes over Prize Island for one of the most amazing BBQ events ever! Come meet and eat with this legend as he teams up with local chefs to create a one-of-kind BBQ lunch! Your ticket gets you five food tickets to exchange for meats, sides and dessert.



The Celebrity Chef BBQ is Presented By



What is Food Prize?

Since 2015, the Food Prize has focused on cultivating and evolving the culinary culture of the Northwest Louisiana region. The result of this effort has put our region on the map as a burgeoning hotspot for food and drink, and this year's Food Prize is back with a vengeance!

The Golden Fork Society and Dinner Series (which happens during the spring and summer) gives our local chefs an opportunity to flex their culinary muscles through a series of dinners — along with a chance to build their businesses and clientele. The three highest-scoring chefs from each Golden Fork Dinner Session will be paired with six nationally recognized chefs, providing opportunities for collaboration, inspiration, and resources for professional growth... and delicious dishes for you to indulge in! But Come and Get It doesn't stop there... quench your passion for handcrafted cocktails with five original cocktails created by our local Golden Shaker mixologists! Attendees cast their votes for the audience favorite chef team as well as help choose the Golden Shaker champion!

Three finalist Golden Fork chefs will be chosen from Come and Get It to move on to the Battle for the Golden Fork. The local chefs will battle it out, live and in person, in a mystery basket cook off. The winning chef walks away with the coveted Golden Fork trophy, bragging rights and \$5,000 cash.

REEL REEL NOW SHOWING: REEL REEL

THE PERFECT DOUBLE FEATURE

The Brine at The Picklr

GREAT BITES.
COOL DRINKS.
GOOD TIMES.
ALWAYS A HIT.

the brine

Pickle. Recharge. Repeat.

"A 'DELICIOUS HIT.' *****"

GOOD FOOD BRIGHT PLAYS

PADDLES.
PEOPLE.
GOOD TIMES.
ALL PLAY.

THE PICKLR

"A CROWD-PLEASING RALLY." *****

GOOD PEOPLE GREAT RALLIES

PICKLEBALL BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER

DINE PLAY REPEAT

GREAT FOOD BETTER COMPANY

After the credits roll, keep the fun going at The Brine at The Picklr — where great food, cool drinks, and pickleball fun come together.

Catch a film. Grab a bite. Rally on.

VIVA PRIZE FEST

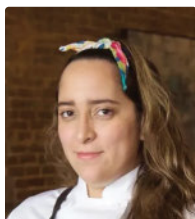
FILMS BITES DRINKS PICKLEBALL GOOD TIMES

CHEFS JASMINE CHERRY & PAULA ENDARA



Jasmine Cherry

Houston-born and Art Institute of Houston-trained, Jasmine learned soulful Southern cooking beside her mom. Now Shreveport-based, she's Executive Chef at the Noble Savage and owner of Boujee Bites LLC, with over 15 years' experience



Paula Endara

Paula Endara, a James Beard Foundation Bootcamp alum and Top Chef Season 22 contestant, began her culinary career in Ecuador at 18. She trained at the Basque Culinary Center and collaborated with Amazonian farmers on a nomadic restaurant in Quito before opening Roots in Arkansas, blending Ecuadorian flavors with local ingredients. Now executive chef of Granddam and Lost Palm at The Manchester in Lexington, Kentucky, she showcases sustainability and cultural heritage through inventive cuisine.

CHEFS LALO DE LOS SANTOS & OSCAR DIAZ



Lalo de los Santos

Born in Oaxaca, Mexico, Abelardo — known as Lalo — carries his homeland's culinary heritage into every kitchen. His career began over a decade ago under Chef Gabriel Balderas of Zuzul Coastal Cuisine and El Cabo Verde.



Oscar Diaz

Oscar Diaz is a Durham-based chef and restaurateur who competed on Season 23 of Top Chef. A two-time James Beard Award semifinalist for Best Chef: Southeast, he is a partner in Little Bull, where his Mexican-American perspective shapes a menu that crosses culinary traditions. His approach to "pocho" cuisine celebrates immigrant influences and the evolving meaning of American food.

CHEFS CHELSEA GIRARD & ANTHONY JONES



Chelsea Girard

With five years in the kitchen, Chelsea values teamwork, adaptability, and joy. Raised around a family dinner table, she believes food brings people together. Off duty: fishing, hiking with her dogs, and home projects.



Anthony Jones

Chef Anthony Jones earned his culinary arts degree from Johnson & Wales University. He worked alongside Marcus Samuelsson at Red Rooster in Miami, which earned a Michelin Bib Gourmand in 2019, before joining Dirty Habit. In 2022, he won an episode of Food Network's Chopped, and in 2023, he was selected for the Diaspora Kitchen Tour in Cameroon alongside other acclaimed Black chefs. He frequently supports organizations like the Human Rights Campaign, DC Central Kitchen, and No Kid Hungry.

CHEFS JACOB MOUSER & EVAN PEMBERTON



Jacob Mouser

A chef at The Chop Shop, Jacob cooks with deep respect for the whole animal. He works seasonally, wastes little, and uses fire, knife, and time to make food that's honest and full of flavor.



Evan Pemberton

Evan, a Dallas native, has been cooking all over the country for the last 21 years. He has worked for some of the best Chefs in the country including Tyson Cole, Stephan Pyles, and Grant Achatz. After spending the last 7 years in Chicago, he has returned to Dallas to open Midcult, a new concept by Free Lunch Hospitality.

CHEFS DARRIELLE STEPHENS & MIKE STITES



Darrielle Stephens

A Southern Cajun chef with a passion for teaching, Darrielle has owned Stephens Family for 11 years and now instructs at Bossier Parish Community College, bringing real-world experience and deep respect for Cajun tradition.



Mike Stites

Chef Mike Stites, a Corpus Christi native, moved to Dallas in 2016, starting on the line at Wolfgang Puck's 560 while attending Le Cordon Bleu. He went on to serve as chef de cuisine at Gemma and Carte Blanche, where his team earned the only Forbes Five-Star designation in Texas, before joining Cry Wolf, where CultureMap named him a Rising Star Chef nominee. Since Cry Wolf's unexpected closing, he has been working with his partners to open his own concept, Holy Ghost.

CHEFS SANELA TOMIC & JOSH HARMON



Sanela Tomic

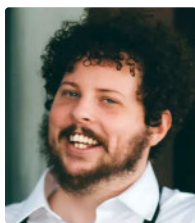
Co-owner of Bella Fresca and Sauvage, Sanela has shaped Shreveport's dining scene for 28 years. Her Balkan heritage and years in Germany define her cooking, now carried forward with her sons Igor and Sasha.



Josh Harmon

Josh Harmon trained in New York City and opened the award-winning Junction Craft Kitchen in 2017. Zagat named him one of the U.S. chefs to watch, and he won Chefs for Farmers. After opening a deli and coffee shop in Fort Worth, he took first place on Food Network's Restaurant Rivals. As F&B director at the Belmont Hotel, he cooked for Leon Bridges, The Zombies, and Erykah Badu. Following an award-winning Mississippi restaurant and national consulting work, he returned to Dallas to open Birdie at The Exchange food hall.

The Golden Shaker Mixologists



Walker Adams

Serving as the bar manager and cocktail artist at Fat Calf Brasserie, Walker Adams is a staple of Shreveport fine dining.



Chase Boytim

Owner of Fatty Arbuckle's in Highland, Chase has been in the restaurant and bar business for over 20 years.



Dacoda Craig

Known as one of the core crew at Bear's in Shreveport's Highland neighborhood, Dacoda serves up delicious drinks daily.



Audrey DeLaune

Audrey is the head mixologist at Heron and Mae & Co, a dual restaurant concept by former Golden Fork Winner chef Blake Jackson.



Paul Loggins

Paul is a head mixologist at Shreveport's Zuzul Coastal Cuisine, founded by Food Prize finalist and serial restaurateur, Gabriel Balderas.

Meet the Food Prize Judges



Tristen Epps

Chef Tristen Epps-Long, winner of Top Chef Season 22, is redefining modern Afro-Caribbean cuisine through bold flavors, cultural storytelling, and global influence. Raised around the world in a military family, his Trinidadian roots and time in Guam, Japan, and the Philippines shaped his culinary perspective. A Johnson & Wales graduate, Tristen has earned recognition from the Michelin Guide, StarChefs, and James Beard Awards. Now based in Houston, he leads Epps & Flows Culinary and is developing Buboy, a contemporary Afro-Caribbean tasting menu restaurant rooted in heritage, memory, and the African diaspora.



Photo: Pableaux Johnson

Tim Carman

Tim Carman is a James Beard Award-winning food writer and reporter for The Washington Post. His work has appeared in numerous editions of the “Best Food Writing” collection. He has also written for Imbibe magazine, American Scholar, and other publications. Before joining The Post in 2010, he served as food editor and columnist for Washington City Paper. He lives in Hyattsville, Md., with his wife, the writer M. Carrie Allan, and their little chihuahua mix, Hans Floofer.



Jay Ducote

Jay Ducote is a chef, traveler, speaker, storyteller, and TV host. Basically, he eats and drinks for a living. Jay finished runner-up on Season 11 of the competition show Food Network Star. He also had a pilot for his own show, “Deep Fried America,” air on the Travel Channel. Jay won an episode of Beat Bobby Flay after challenging the Iron Chef to a crawfish boil. He also won an episode of Food Network’s Superchef Grudge Match. Additionally, he has appeared on Chopped, Cutthroat Kitchen, Masterchef, and many more television and web shows.





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SHREVEPORT

Louisiana

WELCOME TO PRIZEPORT!

Mayor Arceneaux invites you to discover the art, film, food, and music that make our city great.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
SHREVEPORTLA.GOV





PROXIMO

ENJOY WHAT'S NEXT



POP IN FOR GREAT RATES



ANECA

We're Different that Way.

ANECA.org/Rates

**FUELING ENERGY
INNOVATION AND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP
IN LOUISIANA, FOR
THE WORLD.**

EIGHT STANDUP COMEDIANS.
\$2,500 CASH PRIZE!



COMEDY PRiZE™

TWO SHOWS. EIGHT COMEDIANS.

Thursday, October 15th at 6:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.

Prize Garage (211 Market Street)

Featuring eight rising standup comedians from across the country, Comedy Prize is one of the hottest tickets at Prize Fest. These comedians are performing for your laughs, \$2,500 cash, and an opportunity to connect with this year's celebrity judges who have the potential to elevate these artists to the next level!

Meet the Comedians



Shane Bianchi

Shane Bianchi is a Los Angeles based comedian originally from Nashville, Tennessee. He regularly performs at The Comedy Store in LA and Zanies in Nashville. He has opened for comedians such as Big Jay Oakerson, Joe List, and Nick Mullen. He's pretty funny.



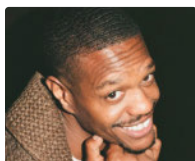
April Boddie

Bringing a sharp comedic voice from New York City, April Boddie is a stand-up comedian, writer, and creator with credits including Hulu, Netflix, CBS, BET, and the New York Comedy Festival. She has opened for Roy Wood Jr., Mike Epps, Jay Jurden, and Mia Jackson, and hosts the comedy podcast Co-Pay with April.



Tatiana Frank

Tatiana Frank was named a Comic To Watch by New York Comedy Festival. She has a viral Don't Tell Special on YouTube, headlined across the country and recently taped a new special coming out soon! Originally from Miami, Tatiana now lives in New York City where she is a comedy club regular.



Papp Johnson

Papp Johnson is a Los Angeles based stand-up comedian and actor. He has appeared on Netflix's Funny AF with Kevin Hart, and Comics Unleashed. His debut comedy special and album, "Timeless", was named one of the best albums of 2023 by Paste Magazine. Last year, he also released a set for Comedy Central's Featuring.



Philipp Kostecky

Philipp Kostecky is a New York-based stand-up comedian who performs across the U.S., U.K., and Europe. His credits include the BBC, Comedy Cellar, and the BBC New Comedy Awards, and he has supported comedians such as Russell Kane, Rafi Bastos, and Des Bishop on tour.



John Novosad

A fixture of the Denver comedy scene, John Novosad has spent more than 40 years performing stand-up across the country. His credits include The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson, Comedy.TV, Dry Bar, Nateland Presents, and Don't Tell Comedy, along with his 2023 album Jokes I Can Only Tell Here.



Gary Simons

Gary Simons is a Connecticut-raised, New York City-based comedian, writer, and actor who has opened for Mike Birbiglia, Roy Wood Jr., Ron Funches, and Sam Jay. A 2026 JFL New Face and 2024 New York Comedy Festival Comic to Watch, he performs regularly at the Comedy Cellar and runs Gravesight Comedy in Brooklyn.



Rachel Williams

Rachel Williams is a Long Island-raised, New York City-based stand-up comedian known for sharp, self-aware takes on everyday life. She has appeared on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon, released a Don't Tell Comedy special, and was named a 2025 New York Comedy Festival Comic to Watch.



LIVE
Louisiana

You're free to live your life out loud! Because you've got the compassion of the cross, the security of the shield, and the comfort of Blue behind you.

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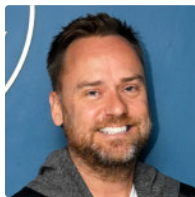
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 **TOYOTA**

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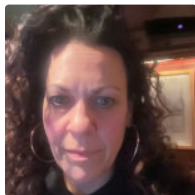
**PRIZE
FEST**
2026

Meet the Comedy Prize Judges



Michael Cox

Michael books and produces the stand-up comedians for “The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon.” Prior to “The Tonight Show,” he booked and produced the panel for Chelsea Handler’s “Chelsea Lately” on E! Michael has booked shows for David Spade, Whitney Cummings, Ron Funches, Josh Wolf, Nikki Glaser and Terry Crews. Michael spent years as a guest judge for NBC’s diversity initiative “Stand-Up NBC” and consulted on NBC’s prime time variety program “Bring The Funny.”



Elizabeth Furiati

Elizabeth is a booker and manager at the Comedy Cellar in New York City. She has produced various specials for Netflix, Comedy Central, YouTube and social media as well as prime time comedy shows on Comedy Central.



Kyle Kazanjian-Amory

Kyle is the founder and CEO of Don’t Tell Comedy, a grassroots live events and media company that showcases and elevates emerging comedians in over 250 cities around the world and through its social media channels that rack up over 2 billion organic views each year.



Josh Sandoval

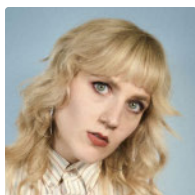
Joshua Sandoval is Director of Programming for Just For Laughs and Talent Booker at The Ice House Comedy Club in Pasadena, California. As a booker for Netflix Is a Joke Fest, he established the festival’s “Introducing” series. He has developed scripted and unscripted projects with comedians including Ken Jeong, Taylor Tomlinson, and Matt Rife, and has produced and cast shows for major networks and streamers, including America’s Got Talent, The Challenge, Star Search, and Hot Ones.



Charlie Sotelo

Charlie Sotelo is a producer and longtime creative force, best known for creating and producing the SXSW Comedy Festival from 2008 through 2025. He is well recognized for spotting emerging talent and curating comedy with an eye toward diversity of formats and up-and-coming voices.

Your Host for the Evening



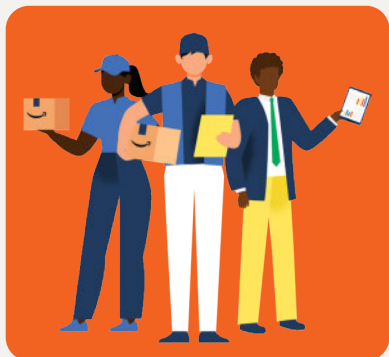
Olivia Carter

Olivia Carter made her Tonight Show debut in July 2025. Known for her magnetic stage performance and incisive humor, Olivia has also garnered attention for her memorable appearance on “FUNNY AF” Catch her live and discover why she’s one of comedy’s most exciting voices on the rise.

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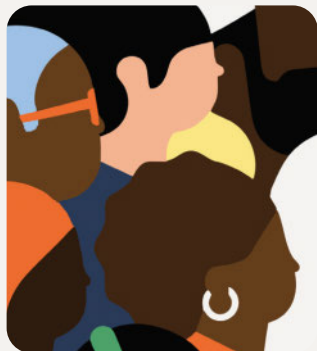


16,500

**jobs supported
in 2025.***

\$500,000+

**donated to local
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in 2026.**



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*Estimated by Keystone Strategy, a third-party consultancy

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20 SHORT FILMS
VOTE FOR THE \$50,000 WINNER.
VOTE FOR BEST PERFORMANCE.



SCREENINGS OCTOBER 16TH AND 17TH

Watch Both Screenings (**Teal and **Orange**) to Vote!**

Various Venues in Shreveport and Bossier City

At fifteen years old, Louisiana Film Prize is our longest-running prize competition. To participate, watch all 20 short films and then vote for your favorites to help determine the winner of the Grand Prize of \$50,000 cash as well as the Best Performance Winner!

Why Film Prize is awesome.

Film Prize is one of the most exciting and unique film festivals you'll ever experience. MovieMaker Magazine listed Film Prize as one of the best film festivals on the planet three years running! Part of what sets Film Prize apart is our gigantic \$50,000 cash grand prize — the largest cash prize of its kind in the world — and how the winner is selected.

How the film voting works.

In order to vote for the grand prize winner, you must possess a Film Prize badge and you must see all 20 short films. The films are divided into two (2) programs of ten (10) films each. These programs are called "Teal Slate" and "Orange Slate".

Once you have seen one slate of films (you may choose either slate to start), get your Film Prize badge punched by an usher immediately after the screening and before you leave the venue. You **MUST** have been present in the auditorium for the entire program. No late entries are permitted. Anyone leaving early (including bathroom breaks outside of intermission) will not be allowed to have their pass punched. A brief intermission will accompany each slate after the first five films for nature calls and concession purchases.

After you have seen both slates and you have had your pass punched, you may cast your ballot at an official Film Prize Voting Station. All Louisiana Film Prize ballot results are tallied and certified by Heard, McElroy, and Vestal.

How the best actor / best actress voting works.

Film Prize is excited to offer best performance awards for the best actress and best actor. Each film received one nominated performance for consideration. Audiences and judges will each vote for three of their favorite actresses and three of their favorite actors.



Film Prize Screening Schedule

The 20 films are divided into 2 programs ("Slates") of 10 films.

These programs are **Teal Slate** and **Orange Slate**. Use the list below to find a showtime with the slate color you want to see!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

9:30a CENTRAL ARTSTATION
11:00a BPCC THEATER
11:45a ROBINSON FILM CENTER
12:00p CAPRI THEATER
2:50p CENTRAL ARTSTATION
4:30p BPCC THEATER
5:15p ROBINSON FILM CENTER
5:30p CAPRI THEATER

9:00a ROBINSON FILM CENTER
9:15a CAPRI THEATER
12:10p CENTRAL ARTSTATION
1:45p BPCC THEATER
2:30p ROBINSON FILM CENTER
2:45p CAPRI THEATER
5:30p CENTRAL ARTSTATION
8:00p ROBINSON FILM CENTER
8:15p CAPRI THEATER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

9:00a ROBINSON FILM CENTER
9:15a CAPRI THEATER
12:10p CENTRAL ARTSTATION
1:45p BPCC THEATER
2:30p ROBINSON FILM CENTER
2:45p CAPRI THEATER
5:30p CENTRAL ARTSTATION
8:00p ROBINSON FILM CENTER

9:30a CENTRAL ARTSTATION
11:00a BPCC THEATER
11:45a ROBINSON FILM CENTER
12:00p CAPRI THEATER
2:50p CENTRAL ARTSTATION
4:30p BPCC THEATER
5:15p ROBINSON FILM CENTER





FILM PRIZE 2026

OFFICIAL AUDIENCE BALLOT

Full Name _____

Zip Code _____

Email Address or Phone Number _____

RANK YOUR TOP THREE FILMS

Write "1" in the box next to your overall favorite.
Write "2" in the box next to your second favorite.
Write "3" in the box next to your third favorite.
You MUST vote for three films and may only use each number once.

☐ ABNEGATION	☐ THE JADE STALLION
☐ CAROLINA BLUE	☐ THE KING OF TIME
☐ THE DAY I MET ARETHA FRANKLIN	☐ THE MAN I LOVE
☐ DOOM LIFT	☐ MAX CAPACITY
☐ FRUITS OF OUR LABOR	☐ SMOKE
☐ GRAD NIGHT	☐ SOMEDAY THEY'LL GO DOWN TOGETHER
☐ THE GREAT WHITE WOLF	☐ SPATIAL
☐ HARVESTED	☐ STALLING
☐ HOURS TO MINUTES TO SECONDS	☐ TANNENBAUM
☐ INHUMATION	☐ WINTER WIND

BEST ACTRESS

Write "1" next to your overall favorite.
Write "2" next to your second favorite.
Write "3" next to your third favorite.
You MUST vote for three performers.

☐ MICHAELA HOLLIS <i>Abnegation</i>	☐ RACHEL DUPARD <i>Carolina Blue</i>
☐ NATALIE SPENCER <i>The Day I Met Aretha Franklin</i>	☐ RESA MISHINA <i>Fruits of Our Labor</i>
☐ MIA KUHNL <i>Grad Night</i>	☐ SHERRI EAKIN <i>Inhumation</i>
☐ SOFIA TERCEROS <i>The Jade Stallion</i>	☐ APRIL YANKO <i>Max Capacity</i>
☐ GRACE GIBSON <i>Smoke</i>	☐ ANNE BROWN PETERSEN <i>Spatial</i>

BEST ACTOR

Write "1" next to your overall favorite.
Write "2" next to your second favorite.
Write "3" next to your third favorite.
You MUST vote for three performers.

☐ DAVID CULOTTA <i>Doom Lift</i>	☐ ZAC CINO <i>The Great White Wolf</i>
☐ ANDREW STROUD <i>Harvested</i>	☐ ALEX MARTINEZ WALLACE <i>Hours to Minutes to Seconds</i>
☐ BRIAN DIETZEN <i>The King of Time</i>	☐ NICHOLAS BORDELON <i>The Man I Love</i>
☐ RUSSELL SHEALY <i>Someday They'll Go Down Together</i>	☐ JOHNNIE BRANNON <i>Stalling</i>
☐ JAMES RIVARD <i>Tannenbaum</i>	☐ JIM ELLIOT <i>Winter Wind</i>



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Abnegation

TEAL

In a world irreversibly damaged by AI data centers, a couple is forced to rely on the very same tool responsible for creating resource scarcity. With AI in her ear and thoughts, a wife faces an irrevocable choice.

Directed by Niko Kochalidze

Written by Niko Kochalidze, Allison Butler

Produced by Allison Butler

Starring Michaela Hollis, Lamarques Morris

Cinematography by Niko Kochalidze

Edited by Scarlett Mitchell-Yang



Carolina Blue

ORANGE

On the cusp of adulthood, A 19-year-old woman who keeps putting off her life is forced into action when her grandfather stops putting off his, setting her on a journey to find him... and ultimately herself.

Directed by Mark D. Bonner

Written by Mark D. Bonner

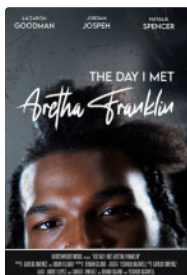
Produced by Mark D. Bonner, Crystal Woodford, M.R. Jordan

Starring Rachel Dupard, Kadar Wesley Price, Stan Brown, Tianne K. Johnson

Cinematography by Michael Street

Edited by Evan Bushkar

Music by King Sis, Audiora, Dew of Light



The Day I Met Aretha Franklin

TEAL

Two women in a beauty salon transform a playwright's day before his play world premieres.

Directed by Brian Egland & Carlos Jimenez

Written by Brian Egland

Produced by Brian Egland, Carlos Jimenez, Jannet Lopez, and Yeshaya Bagwell

Starring La'Zaron Goodman, Jordan Joseph, Natalie Spencer

Cinematography by Yeshaya Bagwell

Edited by Carlos Jimenez



Doom Lift

ORANGE

A human and a puppet find themselves stuck on a ski lift hurdling towards their doom and try desperately to escape their fate, but everything they try hilariously makes the lift go even faster.

Directed by David Culotta

Written by David Culotta and Chris Cronin

Produced by David Culotta, Chris Cronin, Luke Puzdrakiewicz

Starring David Culotta, Chris Cronin

Cinematography by Luke Puzdrakiewicz

Edited by David Culotta

Music by Josh Rovira



Fruits of our Labor

ORANGE

Tensions rise and plans derail when a group of experienced art thieves reluctantly team up with a rookie informant.

Directed by Taylor Deville

Written by Taylor Deville

Produced by Taylor Deville, Sophia White

Starring Matthew Nichols, Anne Brown Petersen, Romeo Reese, Resa Mishina

Cinematography by Jeremy Enis

Edited by Taylor Deville

Music by Sonum



Grad Night

ORANGE

A graduation tape from the Class of 2001 captures one last night of freedom and the beginning of a relationship that will shape a lifetime.

Directed by Travis Bible

Written by Travis Bible

Produced by Kemerton Hargrove, Mike Nicholas

Starring Kris Berg, Mia Kiihnl and Chris O'Shea

Cinematography by Rob Senska

Edited by Travis Bible

Music by Brett Ulery



The Great White Wolf

TEAL

A recovering alcoholic is accidentally served a cocktail during a lunch meeting, leading to a relapse depicted through nightly transformations into the Great White Wolf.

Directed by Zac Cino

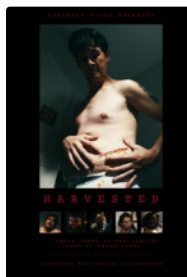
Written by Zac Cino

Produced by Yeshaya Bagwell

Starring Andrew Abdelgwad, Zac Cino, Kat Durel, Jillian Desiree

Cinematography by Yeshaya Bagwell

Edited by Yeshaya Bagwell



Harvested

ORANGE

After a night of partying, newly graduated medical student Dr. Michael wakes up in an ice-bath with his kidney stolen and must go on an absurd quest to get it back.

Directed by Justin Livingston

Written by Justin Livingston

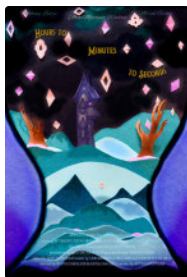
Produced by Justin Livingston, Yeshaya Bagwell, Carlos Jimenez

Starring Drew Stroud, Andre Trahan, Jordan Allen, Zac Cino

Cinematography by Yeshaya Bagwell

Edited by Yeshaya Bagwell

Music by Andre Trahan



Hours to Minutes to Seconds

TEAL

A young teenager, Pendulum, lives with The Clockmaker in a house filled with different creations. When a new friend, Cleo, comes to life, they discover The Clockmaker is not as altruistic as he seems and that their time is running out.

Directed by Catalina Cielo & Stevie Cavalier

Written by Bethany Livers

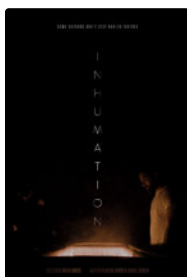
Produced by Catalina Cielo, Bethany Livers, Stevie Cavalier, & Jack Patterson

Starring Bethany Livers, Merah Benoit, Alex Martinez Wallace

Cinematography by Jack Patterson

Edited by Austin Gorski

Music by Carisa Bianca Mellado



Inhumation

TEAL

After being pronounced dead prematurely, a man afflicted with a rare condition is determined to put his fears to rest – no matter the cost.

Directed by Austin Gorski

Written by Gabriel Rosales, Austin Gorski

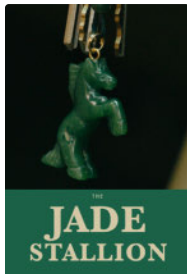
Produced by Gabriel Rosales, Parker Gibbs, Austin Gorski, Jack Patterson, Claudio Venancio

Starring Gabriel Rosales, Sherri Eakin

Cinematography by Jack Patterson

Edited by Austin Gorski

Music by Claudio Venancio



The Jade Stallion

TEAL

At a small-town liquor store, a longtime manager struggles to maintain his authority over a younger employee as the balance of power between them begins to shift.

Directed by Devon Johns

Written by Devon Johns

Produced by Truman Waller, Bernie O'Boyle, Charles Johns

Starring Sofia Terceros Arce, Beauregard Marie, Adrienne Owings

Cinematography by Devon Johns

Edited by Devon Johns



The King of Time

ORANGE

An overworked man goes to a cabin in the woods hoping to fall into a time loop.

Directed by Erinn Hayes

Written by Erinn Hayes

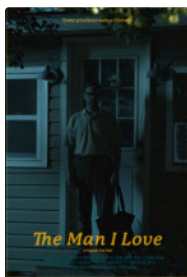
Produced by Erinn Hayes, Brian Dietzen, Alexander Jeffery, Brittany Fallow

Starring Brian Dietzen, Erinn Hayes, Charleszette Tyson Roe

Cinematography by Alexander Jeffery

Edited by Alexander Jeffery

Music by Bence Farkas



The Man I Love

TEAL

Every year, on the eve of the 1973 Upstairs Lounge fire in New Orleans that Jason survived and his lover did not, he returns to the house where Ronald, who never left, still waits to say goodbye all over again.

Directed by Kai Tan

Written by Kai Tan

Produced by Jeff Van Gerwen, Kai Tan, Stevie Lynn Cavalier

Starring Nicholas Bordelon, Kai Tan, Valerie Perkins

Cinematography by Jeff Van Gerwen

Sound by Charlie Mascagni

Edited by Jeff Van Gerwen

Music by George Gershwin, Ira Gershwin, Mathew Mozzoni Jr.



Max Capacity

ORANGE

While packing up her family home, a woman and her boyfriend discover her dead dad's nude centerfold.

Directed by April Yanko

Written by April Yanko

Produced by April Yanko, Justin Wested

Starring April Yanko, Justin Wested

Cinematography by Jeremy Enis

Edited by April Yanko, Justin Wested

Music by Bright Light



Smoke

ORANGE

When a powerful wife kidnaps the woman she suspects is having an affair with her husband, a tense afternoon of marijuana, whiskey, and psychological warfare spirals into a deadly loyalty test that exposes the true nature of love, power, and possession.

Directed by Gian Francisco Smith

Written by Gian Francisco Smith

Starring Grace Gibson, Patricia Guevara, Michael C. Forest, Gian Francisco Smith

Cinematography by Patrick McGinley

Edited by Gian Francisco Smith



Someday They'll Go Down Together

TEAL

A young couple lives on the margins, bound together by status, devotion, and a shared defiance of a world that has already written their ending.

Directed by Taylor Bracewell & JC Doler

Written by Taylor Bracewell & JC Doler

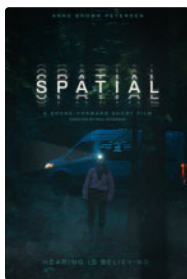
Produced by Taylor Bracewell, JC Doler, Annalee Towns

Starring Alexandria Syvon, Stuart Maxheimer, Russell Shealy, Donna Gafford, Jessie Jo Aka, and Jonathan McKennon

Cinematography by William Hellmuth

Edited by Taylor Bracewell & JC Doler

Music by Bence Farkas



Spatial

ORANGE

A sound-forward story that follows Henri Beckett, a reclusive, audio field recorderist who captures a chilling occurrence during one of her ambient sessions.

Directed by Paul Petersen

Written by Paul Petersen

Produced by Paul Petersen, Lucy Brown, Tamra Corley Davis, Paul Reiser

Starring Anne Brown Petersen, Rachael Hudson, Sam Copeland

Cinematography by Alexander Jeffery

Cinematography by Jonnie Stapleton



Stalling

TEAL

Minutes before a job interview, a man with a stubborn case of shy bladder becomes the center of an increasingly surreal restroom spectacle as every well-intention attempt to help only makes things worse.

Directed by Xander Topich

Written by Xander Topich

Produced by Tamra Corley Davis

Starring Jason Wiley, Duane Jackson, Johnnie Brannon, Lisa Ashcraft

Cinematography by Alexander Jeffery

Edited by Alexander Jeffery

Music by Johnnie Brannon



Tannenbaum

TEAL

Jake's winter season takes an unexpected turn as he tries his best to give his daughter, ex-wife, and dog a memorable Christmas Day.

Directed by Matthew Spriggs

Written by Matthew Spriggs, Mike Jorgenson

Produced by Louaine Spriggs, Jesse Spriggs, Matthew Spriggs

Starring James Rivard, Laika the Dog, Matthew Price, Madison Muniz,

Coco Jones, Evette Randolph

Cinematography by Matthew Spriggs

Edited by Matthew Spriggs



Winter Wind

ORANGE

When a ghostly stranger warns them of a deadly wind storm, a gang of thieves takes shelter in the very town they once robbed.

Directed by Heath Hill

Written by Heath Hill

Produced by Kyle Gilmore, Heath Hill, Lucy Brown, Joe Rolfe

Starring Dana Otero, Ryan Matthews, Jim Elliot, Cullen Clark, Jason Barnett

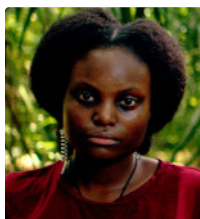
Cinematography by Montana Huckabeey

Edited by Austin Hill

Music by John Desentis

Meet the Nominees for Best Performance

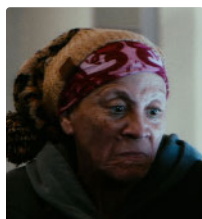
Audiences and judges will each vote for three of their favorite performers in the categories of Actor and Actress. On your ballot, you will mark a number "1" for your first favorite performer, "2" for your second favorite performer, and "3" for your third favorite performer.



Michaela Hollis
Abnegation



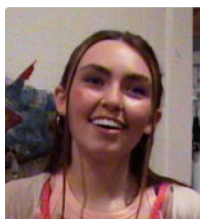
Rachel Dupard
Carolina Blue



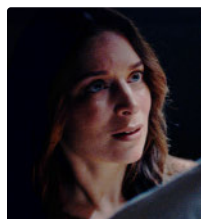
Natalie Spencer
*The Day I Met
Aretha Franklin*



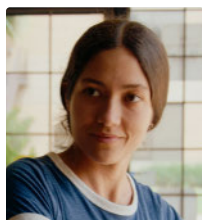
Resa Mishina
Fruits of Our Labor



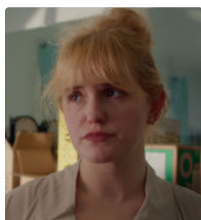
Mia Kiihnl
Grad Night



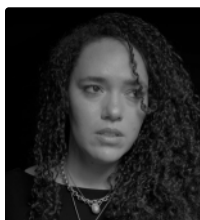
Sherri Eakin
Inhumation



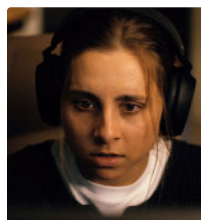
Sofia Terceros
The Jade Stallion



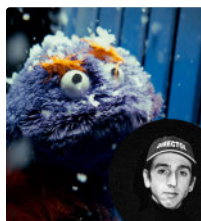
April Yanko
Max Capacity



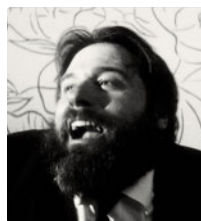
Grace Gibson
Smoke



**Anne Brown
Petersen**
Spatial



David Culotta
Doom Lift



Zac Cino
The Great White Wolf



Andrew Stroud
Harvested



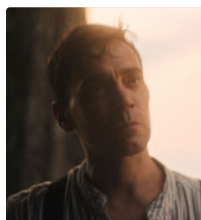
Alex Martinez Wallace
Hours to Minutes to Seconds



Brian Dietzen
The King of Time



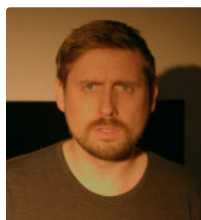
Nicholas Bordelon
The Man I Love



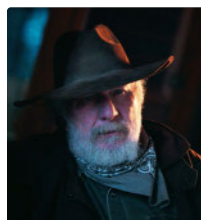
Russell Shealy
Someday They'll Go Down Together



Johnnie Brannon
Stalling



James Rivard
Tannenbaum



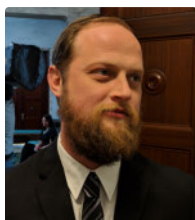
Jim Elliot
Winter Wind

Meet the Film Prize Judges



Ben Thompson

Ben Thompson is VP of Shorts Programming at the Tribeca Film Festival. A graduate of Aberystwyth University, he moved from Wales and London to New York and joined Tribeca soon after arriving. A filmmaker with a longtime love of short-form storytelling, he found his passion in programming at Tribeca, bringing short films to new and engaged audiences. He travels widely in search of new stories from around the globe.



Ben Wiessner

Benjamin Wiessner is a producer and VP of Sales & Distribution at Vanishing Angle. In 2012, he was named one of Filmmaker Magazine's 25 New Faces of Independent Film as part of ormana films, producing and distributing shorts and features with partners worldwide. His animated and live-action shorts have won awards at SXSW and Sundance, and his features have premiered at Sundance, Berlinale, Cannes, SXSW, and Tribeca, including Thunder Road (2018 SXSW Grand Jury Prize), which he produced and self-distributed.



Carly Hoogendyk

Carly Hoogendyk is an LA-based, NYC-grown comedy talent manager and live show producer with Omnipop Talent Group West. She previously managed talent at Artists First in New York. As editor of the State of Comedy Substack, an industry digest spotlighting emerging work across live, digital, film, and animation, she's a leading voice on rising comedy talent. Her live producing credits include Newcomers and CHERRY. She's originally from Phoenix and attended Columbia University a billion years ago.



Colette Freedman

Colette Freedman is a screenwriter, novelist, and playwright. Her indie features include 7,000 Miles, an Amelia Earhart story starring Wendie Malick; Sister Cities, starring Jacki Weaver and Alfred Molina; and Miles Underwater. She has also produced and co-written more than a dozen Lifetime thrillers, authored 12 books, and produced the podcast Cheating History. A top Hollywood ghostwriter and script doctor, she is passionate about helping filmmakers get their projects made.



Elise Greene

With credits spanning film, television, and video games, actress, voice actor, and producer Elise Greene has appeared in Nobody Wants This, Shameless, The Mysterious Benedict Society, and The Sound. Her voice can be heard in Hogwarts Legacy and DOOM, as well as campaigns for Sonic, American Express, and Toyota. A UCLA Producing Program alumna, Greene also develops independent projects and mentors filmmakers.



Milan Chakraborty

Milan is Head of Film at Marginal MediaWorks and a 22-year film industry veteran. At Warner Bros. and New Line Cinema, he worked on Batman Begins, Superman Returns, and V for Vendetta. He has produced or executive produced more than 40 features, including My Friend Dahmer, Assassination Nation, Where Hope Grows, and Black Barbie: A Documentary.



Paul Sloop

Paul has been the lead programmer of short films for the Oscar-qualifying Cleveland International Film Festival since 2002. He is also the Director of Programming for both Film Pittsburgh and the Cordillera International Film Festival in Reno/Tahoe, NV. He is the proud father of seven daughters and one son and lives in Mentor, OH with Sarah, his wonderful wife of over 20 years.

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Golden Lens Award and a \$500 public-voted People's Choice Award during Film Prize.

This year's Photo Prize judge is Katherine Dickson, an award-winning multidisciplinary fine art photographer and filmmaker whose conceptual, cinematic work has earned First Place at the International Photographic Competition and exhibitions at the Florida Museum of Photographic Arts. Come out for this free exhibition and help select this year's People's Choice winner.

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MUSIC PRiZETM

OCTOBER 16TH AND 17TH

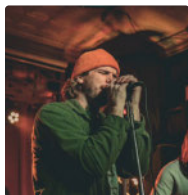
Doors: 6:00 p.m. Show 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Prize Garage (211 Market Street)

Music Prize is split over two nights at the Prize Garage. Six music acts will perform Friday, the remaining five will take the stage on Saturday. The Music Prize Mentor Judges will vote for the Grand Prize winner. Audiences may vote for the Audience Choice winner after they have seen at least three acts.

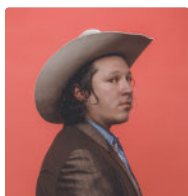
Friday Lineup

Night one at Music Prize kicks off with an amazing and diverse lineup featuring americana, alt rock, country, funk, soul, and psychedelic rock artists. Remember: to vote you must see at least three performances. After each performance, make your way to the voting booth to have your badge punched so that you can vote for your favorites before Music Prize ends!



Before the Mountain

Before the Mountain is a Shreveport, Louisiana-based indie rock band consisting of Randle Milliken, LP DesLattes, Kade Dickerson, Michael Bryant, & Collins Duos. Their music is rooted in personal exploration of self-understanding, growth, and the darker corners of the human experience.



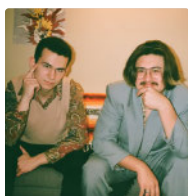
Jesse Rawlinson

Jesse Rawlinson is Louisiana's upstate country crooner that captures the old style of soul/country/songwriter sound of the past. A Shreveport, LA native that sings about pain, heartache, and things that make you think about pain and heartache.



Ado Soul

Bringing together funk, R&B, blues, and New Orleans soul, Ado Soul fronts the New Orleans-based collective Ado Soul & The Tribe. Alongside a band of local musicians, he creates performances built around rhythm, connection, and the city's musical spirit. Their shows invite audiences to become part of the experience, carrying the energy beyond the stage. With community at the heart of their approach, Ado Soul & The Tribe turn live music into a shared celebration.



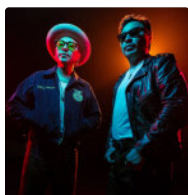
Rococo Disco

Soul, R&B, and indie music meet in Rococo Disco, the Austin-based project of David Soto and Paul Chu. Their sound mixes those influences with funk and pop, while their live performances put crowd interaction front and center. Chu and Soto are known for their wild crowd work and electric shows. Playful, energetic, and driven by the duo's chemistry, Rococo Disco brings its songs to life through an electric stage presence.



J. Isaiah Evans & the Boss Tweed

With keys at the center of their "Garageicana Rock-N-Roll," J. Isaiah Evans & The Boss Tweed bring a raw, rowdy approach to Texas roots music. Evans joins keyboardist Matthew Vasquez and drummer Spud Crowley in an organ trio that draws from Americana, blues, soul, and garage rock. Inspired by organ-driven groups including Booker T. & the M.G.'s, they combine American rock & roll with Texan country-boogie.

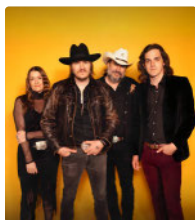


Gran Moreno

Gran Moreno emerges as one of the most captivating voices in the new wave of psychedelic rock. With a sound rooted in analog warmth and expansive textures, the Austin-based band crafts songs that feel like sonic mirages—equal parts groove, grit, and atmosphere. Their music lives at the intersection of distortion and introspection, where hypnotic riffs, heavy rhythms, and emotionally charged melodies build immersive landscapes that demand to be felt as much as heard.

Saturday Lineup

Night two of Music Prize continues with an eclectic lineup of Americana, indie-rock, punk-rock, roots rock, and a little soul. Remember to get your badge punched in order to vote for your favorite artist!



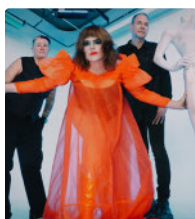
The Family

The Family is a quartet of acclaimed musicians from the famed Muscle Shoals, Alabama area who have each carved out successful careers of their own, with songs recorded by Rascal Flatts, Martina McBride, Travis Tritt, Tim McGraw, Kenny Chesney, and Sara Evans. Beyond their personal accolades, there's something else that bonds this quartet: they're family. Aiming to channel a bygone era with music that now mostly lives in record collections and memories, The Family rolls back the years to create a sound that is fresh and true to their artistic identity.



Elijah Delgado

Elijah Delgado is an Austin, Texas singer-songwriter crafting "indie rock lullabies". A textured blend of indie rock, indie folk, and pop that pairs atmospheric guitars, intimate songwriting, dynamic builds, and emotional honesty. With a growing presence in the Austin music scene, Elijah has opened for Better Than Ezra, Barteaux Strange, and Zach Person and performed at festivals including Old Settler's Music Festival, UtopiaFest, ACL Radio's Drop-In Series, and Blues on the Green.



Parker Woodland

Parker Woodland believes music can change the world. The female-majority rock trio is known for joyfully energetic live shows — a magical mixture of cathartic songs, psych guitar, emotional vocals, head-banging drums, and cinematic visuals. RIYL: The Clash, Lambrini Girls, Yeah Yeah Yeahs.



Madam Radar

Madam Radar is a modern example of how genuine talent and unconventional branding can build a foundation for long-term growth. The Austin-based group doesn't fit a mainstream commercial mold, blending Americana, southern rock, indie folk, and rich four-part harmonies. In an industry driven by short attention spans and algorithms, Madam Radar has succeeded by embracing what makes them different instead of softening their individuality.



Dezi 5

Dallas-born singer, songwriter, and bandleader Dezi 5 blends soul, blues, rock, country, Americana, and Latin influence into his signature "Texas Soul." With performances that pair his raw emotional delivery with an energetic stage presence, Dezi 5 has shared stages with Keith Urban, Gavin Degraw, Big Freedia, and Big & Rich. His albums *Dirty Laundry* and *Dirty Laundry: Unfolded* were named among the best of albums 2024 and 2025 by the Dallas Observer, and he is currently recording his sophomore album, entitled *The Fifth Most Wanted*.

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Music Prize Mentor Judges

One of the core components of Prize Fest is not just artists presenting or performing their works, it's also the professional guidance and exposure to the mentor judges. This year brings many heavyweight mentor judges who can share their experience and insight with competitors and afford them an opportunity to elevate their craft to the next level.



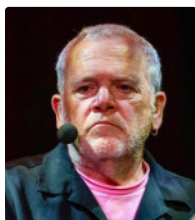
Celeste Debro

Celeste is a Music Supervisor for Creative Control and Tyler Perry Studios. She has worked on shows including *Zatima*, *Young Dylan*, *Caught Up*, and *All The Queen's Men*. Her Films include *Mea Culpa*, *Bleeding Love*, *Divorce In The Black*, and *The Six Triple Eight*. She prides herself on being an advocate, curator, and problem solver for independent music artists, providing strategic planning, self-discovery, and creative solutions that give them the knowledge and confidence to succeed.



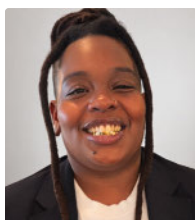
Christina Rentz Martinson

Christina Rentz Martinson is Label Director at Merge Records, the acclaimed independent label in Durham, North Carolina. A Louisiana native, she has spent 25 years shaping artists' careers and the label's identity as publicist, marketer, radio promoter, social media wrangler, and event planner. Merge is home to Superchunk, The Magnetic Fields, Neutral Milk Hotel, She & Him, and Caribou. Christina brings practical insight, behind-the-scenes stories, and a deep love of independent music.



Hugo Burnham

Hugo's music career started in 1977 as a founding member of Gang of Four. He went on to manage Shriekback, Julian Cope, etc. before doing A&R in NY with Island Records, then with Quincy Jones and at EMI Music in Los Angeles, before starting teaching in 2000. He and singer Jon King re-formed the band with guitarist, David Pajo (Slint, Yeah Yeah Yeahs, and Interpol) in 2022. Together they've toured the US and Europe in 2025, played Wilco's Solid Sound Festival this summer, and are recording new songs for release in 2027.



Jai Yoko

Jai Yoko has more than a decade of music industry experience in artist development, release coordination, and rights and royalty management. She co-chairs education for Songwriters of North America (SONA), is Secretary of RAMPD, sits on the Grimalkin Records board, and is a Recording Academy member. Through Jai Yoko Entertainment, she helps independent artists build sustainable careers. A speaker, mentor, and disability advocate, she champions accessible, neurodivergent-friendly music education.



Jay Weigel

Jay is a distinguished composer, producer, conductor, arranger, orchestrator, and contractor for film, TV, recordings, and concerts. Based in LA, New Orleans, and Nashville, he has worked in the film and TV industry since 1984. His recent scores can be heard in films like *Interview with the Vampire*, *The Campaign*, *Green Lantern*, & *Paradise Lost*. He recently arranged the works of Big Freedia and the Lost Bayou Ramblers for concerts with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra.



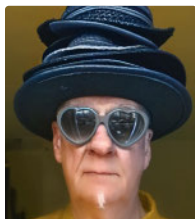
Nanci Walker

Nanci M. Walker is an A&R executive and artist manager with three decades of experience discovering and developing artists, songwriters, and recordings. She has held A&R roles at Columbia Records, Island/Def Jam, BMG, Universal Music Publishing, and Peermusic, earning Gold, Platinum, and Multi-Platinum credits. She now manages Robbie Furze, frontman of The Big Pink, and M.O.T.H.E.R., his project with Jamie Hince of The Kills and Jamie T, whose debut EP arrived in 2026. She also manages producer-writers Mark Jackson and Ian Scott.



Sonya Kolowrat

Sonya has 30+ years of music industry experience. She spent most of her career in publicity, and after handling press campaigns for an extensive variety of artists across most genres, she shifted her focus to catalog. She now works closely with label artists past and present to maximize their catalog efforts as Beggars US Director of Catalog where she has been on staff for 20 years.



Mike Stewart

Mike Stewart is a record producer and musician whose career spans Texas and Europe. He has worked with iconic acts like Poi Dog Pondering, Wild Seeds, and The Gourds before taking his talents overseas to collaborate with European artists. Now back in Austin, Stewart leads The Mike Stewart Theory, blending loungey, folksy, dance-pop sounds into a style where categories don't matter, only the music.



Jeff Liles

Jeff Liles is the Artistic Director of The Kessler Theater in Dallas, where he has helped transform the historic venue into one of Texas's most respected listening rooms. A longtime figure in the Dallas music scene with roots in Deep Ellum, Liles is known for his thoughtful curation, deep storytelling, and commitment to building community through live music.

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